

18 September 1972

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Senator Gravel's Reference to the Agency

1. As you have probably noticed, there is a story over Sanford J. Ungar's byline on page A-7 of the Monday, 18 September, edition of the Washington Post headlined "Gravel Refused Invitation to Hanoi." (To clarify the headline writer's ambiguity, the story recounts that Gravel, not Hanoi, did the refusing.) The story deals with Gravel's conversations with the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris in March 1972.

2. In that story, there is a passing reference to the "educational briefings" that Gravel received from the Agency before his departure for Paris. These briefings were, of course, my conversation with him in his office and several subsequent conversations over the telephone during the first few days of March. (If memory serves, I saw him on Thursday, 2 March, and talked to him over the telephone at least twice that weekend.) Gravel's remarks were not tendentious or critical in any way, nor is there any reason why they should have been since the March briefings went well and the Agency's posture was one of being as helpful as possible under the circumstances. My principal reason for flagging this piece of ancient history to your attention is the fact that -- by conscious decision -- we did not tell anyone, including the White House of our foreknowledge of Gravel's Paris trip. Though our colleagues downtown have far more pressing claims on their current attention, it is possible that someone may broach this matter to you. The above comments are made to prevent your being caught off base in any such contingency.

✓  
1 - GAC Chrono  
1 - VAS Chrono

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs